



Small group discussion questions October 2014

Chapter and Verse – Rosalind Selby (p27)

Read Matthew 22:15-22, followed by Rosalind Selby’s article.

1. Look again at verses 15-18 of the Bible passage, and paragraph one of “Chapter & Verse”. The Pharisees and Herodians ask a question that Matthew describes as malicious. What is the question and what is malicious about it? What do you think their intention was in asking it? What response did they expect?
2. Look again at verses 18-20 of the Bible passage, and paragraph two of “Chapter & Verse”. Why does Jesus ask to be shown a coin? What is the significance of the head on the coin?
3. Rosalind says in paragraph three that the question is “only partly about taxes; importantly it is also about authority”. In what ways is the question about authority?
4. Look again at verses 20-22, and paragraph four of “Chapter & Verse”. Rosalind says: “Jesus’ answer is not merely ‘give’, but ‘give back’”. What difference does this make?
5. In this paragraph, Rosalind talks of two different challenges from Jesus. How did those challenges apply to the people Jesus was addressing in the passage? How do they apply to us today?
6. In the final paragraph, Rosalind mentions different ideas about the relationship between religion and the state, based on what Jesus says in verse 21. Which interpretation do you think is best?
7. Followers of Jesus today do not have to worry much about their attitude to the Roman empire, but we still face difficult questions about how to be faithful to God in the modern world. What might it mean to you today to “Give to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s”?

For further reflection: “Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.” Romans 13:8

Prayer: God who made us, we have nothing that does not come from you. Teach us to use it faithfully, give it generously, hold it lightly, spend it thoughtfully and share it transformatively. Amen

Chapter & Verse
Rosalind Selby Chapter & verse
“Do we give back to God that which we owe? How do we respond to God’s grace?”



“Can there be a more malicious question than the one that Jesus asks in Matthew 22:15-22? ‘Do we give back to God that which we owe?’”

“The Pharisees and Herodians ask a question that Matthew describes as malicious. What is the question and what is malicious about it? What do you think their intention was in asking it? What response did they expect?”

“Jesus’ answer is not merely ‘give’, but ‘give back’.”

Political and religious leaders have not been the good shepherds God expected



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